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Tool will assist in management of chemical warfare

by Francis L. Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — Applying information technology to improve the planning and management of incidents involving chemical or biological weapons is the goal of a small business contract awarded by the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate to ScenPro Inc. of Richardson, Texas.

The nine-month, $99,900 agreement was awarded under the federal Small Business Innovative Research program.

"The objective of this program is to develop a prototype computer tool to assist a commander and support staff in the planning and management of an incident involving the use of chemical or biological weapons," said Daniel F. Fayette, program manager in the directorate's Information Technology Division.

"We hope to develop software that will improve critical resource tracking, prediction of resource shortfalls, proposed solutions to identified resource deficiencies, the ability to dynamically tailor medical treatment protocols to support mission response and provide critical force and emergency response readiness information to higher levels of command," Fayette said.

Research under the contract will include methods to identify and reconcile the similarities and differences between U.S. medical treatment protocols and response plans with those of coalition forces. It will also seek methods for tracking, augmenting, merging or switching between alternate courses of action; and the use of predictive simulation in determining resource shortfalls for incidents involving the use of chemical or biological weapons.

"This is one of a number of programs which the directorate has initiated to help define operational requirements, technology needs and potential solutions in the area of information technology applied towards the new and deadly threat from chemical and biological attacks," Fayette said. **@**